

EX-POSTMASTER MORTON AND FAMILY



Mrs. M. B. Morton



Mr. M. B. Morton



Maud and Monroe B. Morton, Jr.



Ida McKinley Morton

ENTHUSIASTIC AS EVER.

Postmaster Morton Retires With honors Thick About him and Stands Ready to Respond to the Bugle Call of Duty

Mr. Monroe B. Morton has just closed a brilliant four years' administration as postmaster at Athens, Georgia. His service at this office—one of the most important in the state, gave eminent satisfaction to the citizens, and he retires with the respect and good will of all who have been brought into contact with him. While his friends made a stubborn fight for his retention and lost only because of a phase of political expediency which suggested a change, Mr. Morton is in no sense cast down, but, on the contrary, accepts the situation with philanthropic complacency, and is just as enthusiastic as ever for the upbuilding of the Republican party in his bailiwick. He holds President Roosevelt in the highest regard, and has the fullest confidence in the wisdom, broad magnanimity and sterling American statesmanship of the dashing young executive. He sees possibilities and results in the President's southern policy not discernible at this time to the superficial reasoner or diplomatic novice. He is in touch with all the leaders, and in resuming his private business he has arranged his affairs in such a way as to be ready to respond to any call to duty as a partisan or public-spirited citizen.

Mr. Morton is an interesting character. In his whole career was written it would read like a work of fiction—a story, however, in which grit, perseverance, energy and pluck would play the leading part. Born in the early fifties, he learned his letters in Savannah under Rev. James Sims who taught a secret school in that city before and during the war. After a term or two in Knox Institute, Atlanta, he became messenger boy to Maor Knox, of the Freedmen's

Bureau, a man who did so much for the black man in Georgia. From that time until now "Pink" Morton, as his friends like to call him, has been working, striving, saving, until to-day he is easily the most influential colored man in business or politics in this part of Georgia. He has engaged in almost every kind of work or business one can think of. He has been a hotel man, and he tells to-day how he would make contracts with the students who stopped at his hotel for their wash and then he would sublet the contracts to washerwomen at a profit, and how he would take a wheelbarrow and carry trunks to the depot so as to make that twenty-five cents himself. The now famous Col. Pledger and he worked with the surveying engineers on the N. E. R. R. Then he tried carpentry, tailoring and finally became a merchant. During all this time he faithfully supported his mother and the other children, educating two of his sisters at Atlanta University, U. S. gauger and railway mail clerk were the next positions filled by him, and in both of them he gave complete satisfaction, but kept his eye open for higher things.

During campaigns he would attend conventions and at his own expense, studying the methods and workings of large bodies and fitting himself for a great political battle which he knew was coming. He was alternate-delegate once and in 1896, after one of the most historic political campaigns in Clarke county, he went as a delegate to the national convention at St. Louis and assisted in nominating Wm. McKinley. He was placed on the committee which notified Mr. McKinley of his nomination, and had the pleasure of dining with the president-elect at his Canton home. President McKinley appointed him postmaster at Athens where he showed the blood that is in him by appointing Negroes to all the clerical places in the office, taking pains, however, to secure the very best colored men available. He drew a salary of \$2,500 per annum. It is the general verdict

that the postoffice under Postmaster Morton has given the best service of years.

He was elected delegate to the National Republican convention which met at Philadelphia in June, 1900, and was a luminous figure in the great gathering.

While he enjoys the society of pleasant people, it is in the world of business that Mr. Morton finds most delight. While he has made some enemies, as all men of opinion will make, he has a host of loyal friends who know his real worth and believe in him. While in business affairs he is direct and strict, in his own home, where dwell a loving wife and three beautiful children, he is all tenderness and love. While, if you owe him a quarter and did not pay him, he would dislike it and tell you so, yet he has driven twenty miles on a dark night to succor a strange man financially. His religion is justice to all—love toward humanity. These things show what manner of man M. B. Morton is.

Now the owner of thousands of dollars of property, both city and country, with an elegant home, still young in years and full of energy, with friends among both races, his career, successful as it has been in the past, offers even greater rewards in the future.

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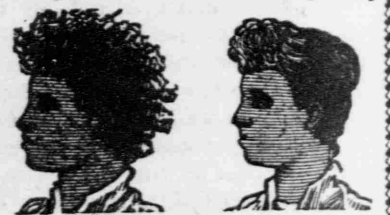
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